

Claims

1. A tooth-whitening composition comprising at least one whitening agent together with at least one film forming material characterised in that the composition is in the form of a film which is water soluble and/or water dispersible.
- 5 2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the film dissolves or disperses upon contact with water over a period of time ranging from about 15 seconds up to about 120 minutes.
3. A composition according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the said film is self supporting, such that a carrier material is not required during use.
- 10 4. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the said film self-adheres to teeth.
5. A composition according to claim 4, wherein the aid film self-adheres to teeth in a time period of from 0.5 seconds to 2 minutes.
6. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the composition
15 further comprises any of the following, either alone or in combination: at least one plasticiser and at least one filler.
7. A composition according to claim 6, wherein the film forming polymer is selected from any of the following, either alone or in combination: polysaccharides, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone and polyacrylic acid based polymers.
- 20 8. A composition according to claim 6, wherein the film forming polymer is derived from cellulose.
9. A composition according to any one of claim 6 to 8, wherein the film forming material constitutes from 0.1 to 99.9% w/w of the total composition.

10. A composition according to claim 6, wherein the plasticiser is selected from any of the following, either alone or in combination: polyhydric alcohols and sugar syrups.
11. A composition according to claim 6 or claim 10, wherein the plasticiser
5 constitute from 0 to 80% w/w of the total composition.
12. A composition according to claim 6, wherein the filler is selected from any of the following either alone or in combination: silica, silicones, sodium sulphate, sodium bicarbonate, Pluronic surfactants, fatty acid compounds, sodium laureth sulphate and ethyl cellulose.
- 10 13. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the whitening agent is peroxide based.
14. A composition according to claim 13, wherein the peroxide is hydrogen peroxide and/or urea peroxide.
15. A composition according to any one of the preceding claim, wherein the
15 whitening agent constitutes from 0.1% to 50% w/w of the total composition.
16. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the composition comprises any of the following additional ingredients either alone or in combination: stabilisers, humectants, thickeners, preservatives, processing aids, colourants and flavourings.
- 20 17. A composition according to claim 16, wherein the processing aid is a silicone based compound.
18. A tooth whitening composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the composition additionally comprises at least one further active agent selected from any of the following either alone or in combination: anti-plaque agents, antimicrobial

agents, and anti-tartar agents, teeth strengthening agents, densensitizing agents, fluorides, mouth cleansing/freshening agents and soothing or pain relieving agents.

19. The use of a tooth-whitening composition as described in claim 1 for reducing discolouration on teeth.

5 20. A method for the manufacture of a tooth-whitening composition of claim 1 comprising the steps of: preparing an aqueous mixture which comprises at least one whitening agent together with at least one film forming material, casting the said mixture onto a substrate and allowing the mixture to dry.

21. A method for the manufacture of a tooth-whitening composition of claim 1
10 comprising the steps of: applying to a pre-prepared water soluble film or a water dispersible film a whitening agent.

22. A method according to claim 21, wherein the whitening agent is applied to the film by spraying, heat and/or pressure transfer or dip coating.

23. A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition does not
15 sensitise teeth.